

Message

From: Tien, Alysia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=A4B393A4B8E74A33ABD6943792B52BC7-TIEN, ALYSIA]
Sent: 6/1/2021 12:43:07 PM
To: Wirick, Holiday [wirick.holiday@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: ND WQS- ammonia concerns/variances from call

Hi Holly,

Thanks so much for responding back to Tina on this.

If you need any additional support from me on any of this, please let me know and I'm happy to back you up.

Alysia

Alysia Tien
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From: Wirick, Holiday <wirick.holiday@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 2:44 PM
To: Laidlaw, Tina <Laidlaw.Tina@epa.gov>; Tien, Alysia <Tien.Alysia@epa.gov>
Cc: Llamozas, Emilio <Llamozas.Emilio@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: ND WQS- ammonia concerns/variances from call

Hi Tina, as a follow-up to your message, as you know, I work with Pete Wax, ND DEQ's WQS Coordinator. Pete has been working with Marty Haroldson, with the North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program, who over the last several years has worked with his staff to put ND's ammonia criteria together.

Marty's been working with municipalities for many years - they know the ammonia criteria are coming. The large and mid-size facilities will be fine, but some small facilities will be challenged due to limited resources, but it is my understanding that most were constructed for expansion so may work to find funds for optimizing their systems.

The state does not have any plans to write variances; their goal is for all facilities to be in compliance. However, if they do need a tool, the state would likely opt for site specific criteria development.

We can talk about this when you have time. I know you are buried in MT WQS issues!

Have a fun weekend!

Holly

From: Laidlaw, Tina <Laidlaw.Tina@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Tien, Alysia <Tien.Alysia@epa.gov>; Wirick, Holiday <wirick.holiday@epa.gov>

Cc: Llamozas, Emilio <Llamozas.Emilio@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: ND WQS- ammonia concerns/variances from call

Alysia,

Thanks for the email. As background, Karl Rockman had indicated in a call with us the other day that he did not expect WWTPs to have difficulty meeting the new ammonia criteria. He said he thought only a handful of facilities might not be able to achieve the ammonia criteria. I thought that was great but different than what we've heard from other states, especially for lagoons. It is my understanding that many lagoons have trouble meeting the existing ammonia criterion, much less the 2013 more stringent value.

So I was just curious to know if Karl's comment related to mechanical plants only? If not, will lagoons be able to achieve the 2013 ammonia criterion? Perhaps b/c they don't discharge or have sufficient dilution? It would just be good to know what the universe of facilities might be that may have difficulty meeting the 2013 criterion in case those facilities may need to work with EPA on a possible variance.

Hope that helps. Also happy to participate in a meeting if that would be helpful.

Appreciate the follow up!

Tina

From: Tien, Alysia <Tien.Alysia@epa.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 5:21 PM

To: Laidlaw, Tina <Laidlaw.Tina@epa.gov>; Wirick, Holiday <wirick.holiday@epa.gov>

Cc: Llamozas, Emilio <Llamozas.Emilio@epa.gov>

Subject: ND WQS- ammonia concerns/variances from call

Hi Tina and Holly,

On the ND call today it sounded like there was some information you are looking for regarding violations/potential violations for ammonia for NDDEQ permitted lagoon facilities, as you all are needing to evaluate variance concerns as you work on finalizing the ND WQSs with the updated ammonia criteria?

If there is a list of questions or specific information you need to evaluate for ammonia for the NDDEQ permitted lagoon systems- I can definitely check in with Marty to see if they have any of that information readily available (other than the information that Emilio shared during the call, we do not typically track monitoring data from state-issued permits for potential violations of WQ standards that are not yet final, since those would not be implemented in a permit yet).

Marty/NDDEQ would definitely be more aware of the status of their permitted lagoons and any potential implementation concerns as related to WQS ammonia criteria that are not yet finalized/being implemented.

Please let me know if you would like me to request some information from Marty, and I can send you whatever I receive back from him so you all can review it in comparison with their proposed updates to the ammonia in the ND WQSs/see if you need to work with them on issues regarding use of variances in the future.

If you would like to set up a meeting to discuss, I am also happy to chat more and my calendar is up to date with my availability if needed.

Thanks!

Alysia

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